

Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 29 October 1992

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IAN CASTLES
Australian Statistician

Manufacturing prices in August

While the prices of articles produced by the manufacturing industry rose by just 2.2 per cent in the year to August, prices of materials used in manufacturing rose by 6.0 per cent over the same period. Details of movements in the two price indexes are given below.

Manufacturing materials prices up again

The price index of materials used in manufacturing industries increased by 0.7 per cent between July and August 1992; prices of home produced materials rose by 0.4 per cent while those for imported materials rose by 1.3 per cent.

The increase in prices of home produced materials resulted mainly from higher prices for fish, prawns and lobsters and for metal ores and concentrates.

The main contributors to the increase in imported materials prices were chemicals and chemical based materials, other manufactured materials and textile fibres, yarns and fabrics.

Over the year to August, prices of manufacturing materials increased by 6.0 per cent, the largest annual increase since December 1990.

The table below summarises the price movements of imported and home produced materials.

PRICE INDEXES OF MATERIALS USED IN MANUFACTURING, AUGUST 1992
Percentage change

Source of material	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Imported	1.3	6.1
Home produced	0.4	6.0
All manufacturing	0.7	6.0

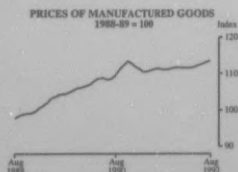
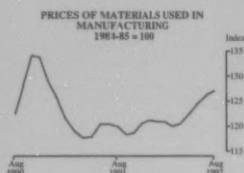
Small rise in prices of manufactured goods

The price index of articles produced by the manufacturing industry rose 0.4 per cent between July and August 1992, the fourth consecutive monthly increase of that magnitude.

The rise was due mainly to small increases in prices for a wide range of items, food and beverages in particular. The only individual increases of significance were for exported beef, silver, lead and zinc.

These increases were partially offset by small price falls for about a quarter of the items in the index.

The All Manufacturing Industry Index rose by 2.2 per cent between August 1991 and August 1992. This is the largest annual increase since July 1991.



Variations in the rate of price change for different sectors of manufacturing are shown below.

PRICES OF MANUFACTURED GOODS, AUGUST 1992

Manufacturing sector	Percentage change	
	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Petroleum products	0.0	8.6
Food and beverages	0.7	3.2
Transport equipment	0.5	2.6
Clothing and footwear	0.2	1.7
Basic metal products	0.7	1.1
Other industrial machinery	0.7	1.1
Chemical products	0.0	0.8
Fabricated metal products	-0.1	0.6
Total manufacturing	0.4	2.2

For further information, order the publications *Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia (6411.0)* and *Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia (6412.0)*, or contact Geoff Brown on (06) 252 5348 or Peter Cordy on (06) 252 5541.

Exchange rate raises import prices

The Import Price Index rose by 2.1 per cent in August 1992 mainly as a result of the continuing fall in the value of the Australian dollar against the currencies of its major trading partners.

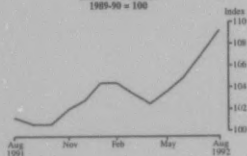
The main items contributing to the August price rise were machinery specialised for particular industries and general industrial machinery, equipment and parts.

Between August 1991 and August 1992 the total index increased by 7.9 per cent.

IMPORT PRICES, AUGUST 1992

Selected groups of items	Percentage change	
	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Animal and vegetable oils, etc.	2.1	28.6
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	2.2	10.0
Machinery and transport equipment	2.2	9.7
Other commodities and transactions	-0.8	8.6
Mineral fuels, lubricants and other related materials	-0.2	5.4
Chemical products	3.0	4.8
Crude materials	0.9	2.1
All items	2.1	7.9

IMPORT PRICES
1989-90 = 100



Manufacturing production in September

The publication *Manufacturing Production, Australia, Preliminary (8301.0)* contains up-to-date time series data on the production of twenty-seven major indicators of production (twenty-five seasonally adjusted). The indicator commodities have been selected to give a broad industry representation of the manufacturing sector and are part of a much larger range of commodity items published in the series of ten *Manufacturing Production Bulletins*.

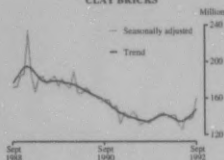
In the table below, fourteen items show an increase from September 1991, with petrol rotary type lawn mowers, clay bricks and cars and station wagons showing significant increases. Eleven items show a decrease, with domestic clothes washing machines, woven woollen fabric and television sets showing significant decreases.

Generally comparisons with the corresponding month of the previous year are a more reliable guide to trends, but should be read in conjunction with the more detailed data presented in the monthly publications, as production of manufacturing commodities can vary quite significantly on a month-to-month basis, even after seasonal adjustment.

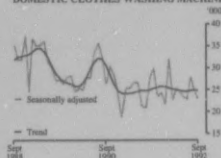
MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION
SEPTEMBER 1992
Seasonally adjusted, percentage change

Product	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Petrol-rotary type lawn mowers	-0.1	30.8
Clay bricks	13.8	17.8
Cars and station wagons	8.1	13.2
Gas available for issue through mains	7.3	13.1
Chocolate based confectionery	-6.4	10.9
Other confectionery	-9.0	7.6
Woven cotton fabric (including towelling)	3.9	7.2
Sulphuric acid; oleum	7.4	7.1
Basic iron, spiegeleisen and sponge iron	3.5	4.8
Electricity	2.2	2.5
Iron and steel in ingots or other primary forms	6.2	1.8
Textile floor coverings	-2.3	0.9
Cotton yarn	1.8	0.8
Portland cement	-12.2	0.5
Blooms and slabs, from rolling and forging	-9.3	-2.8
Beer	-3.7	-3.5
Motor vehicles for goods and materials	39.4	-6.5
Cigarettes and tobacco	13.2	-6.6
Electric motors	-11.0	-7.9
Wool yarn	-2.3	-9.5
Domestic refrigerators	10.8	-12.4
Woven man-made fibre fabric	-7.1	-14.5
Television sets	4.1	-15.6
Woven wool fabric (including blanketing)	14.9	-17.6
Domestic clothes washing machines	-10.8	-23.1

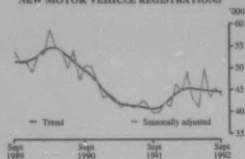
CLAY BRICKS



DOMESTIC CLOTHES WASHING MACHINES



NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS



New vehicle registrations still on plateau

The trend estimate for total new motor vehicle registrations remained flat, with all month to month movements being less than 1.0 per cent since April 1992. September 1992 showed a fall of 0.5 per cent from August.

In seasonally adjusted terms, total new motor vehicle registrations fell 3.8 per cent compared with August 1992.

In original terms, total new motor vehicle registrations for September 1992 rose by 7.0 per cent, from 44,554 vehicles in August 1992 to 47,651 in September. Passenger vehicles rose by 6.9 per cent, from 37,462 vehicles in August to 40,043 in September 1992, while other vehicles showed an increase of 7.3 per cent, from 7,092 vehicles in August to 7,608 in September.

Registrations rose in all States and Territories except Victoria, which showed a fall of 2.8 per cent and the Northern Territory, where there was a fall of 4.2 per cent.

For further information, order the publication *Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, Preliminary (9301.0)*, or contact Kevin Yeadon on (06) 252 6255.

Immunisation short of the mark

Just over half (53%) of children aged six years or less were fully immunised against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, measles and mumps in 1989-90.

As the table shows, immunisation does not approach 100 per cent for any of those individual diseases.

IMMUNISATION OF CHILDREN AGED 0 TO 6 YEARS, 1989-90
Per cent

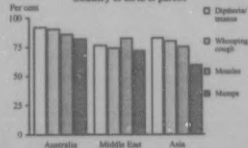
	Immunisation status				
	Fully	Partly	Not	Not known	Total
Diphtheria/tetanus	86.3	5.5	3.7	4.5	100.0
Whooping cough	70.9	19.3	5.4	4.5	100.0
Polio	72.1	15.9	5.8	6.1	100.0
Measles	86.0	0.0	11.0	3.0	100.0
Mumps	80.5	0.0	14.9	4.5	100.0

The immunisation status of children differed according to family characteristics, with a lower proportion of children from single parent families, and of lower income families being fully immunised.

Children of parents aged 25 to 34 years, and of parents born in Australia, were more likely to be fully immunised than children of parents in other age groups or born in the Middle East and Asia. These findings are among results from the 1989-90 National Health Survey.

For further information, order the publication *Children's Immunisation, Australia (4379.0)*, or contact Brian Richings on (06) 252 5786.

FULLY/PARTLY IMMUNISED CHILDREN
Country of birth of parent



Testing for discrimination in the labour market

In recent issues, we have presented summaries of two occasional papers produced by Dr Graeme Vaughan under the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Research Statistician Scheme. To complete the series, this article briefly describes the work in a similar field by a recent ABS Research Fellow, Professor Frank Jones, a sociologist in the Research School of Social Sciences at the Australian National University.

Indirect discrimination related to sex or ancestry differences are the main causes of unequal labour market achievement by women and migrants, according to Professor Jones' study recently published by the ABS.

Sex and Ethnicity in the Australian Labour Market: The Immigrant Experience, analyses data from the 1986 Australian Census on the labour market experience of four ethnic groups: the Dutch, Italians, Chinese and the Anglo-Celtic group.

The report concludes that some differences 'may reflect discrimination or rational judgments by employers that skills acquired in foreign schools are not worth much to them'.

In Professor Jones' analysis of unemployment, he found that schooling and qualifications reduce the individual risk. Foreign qualifications provide weaker protection than qualifications obtained after arrival. Overseas labour force experience also helps reduce unemployment, but not as much as local experience. Married persons have a lower risk of unemployment, as do those who take out Australian citizenship. Poor English speakers and refugees are more likely to be unemployed.

For example, the study found that when comparing like with like (in terms of education, experience etc.) Anglo-Celtic immigrant men experienced higher rates of unemployment in the first 15 years of settlement than immigrants from non-English-speaking ancestries. The report explains this in terms that:

'Anglo-Celts seem more tolerant of unemployment as an option to settling for an inferior job than do members of other immigrant groups. Migrants from non-English-speaking backgrounds seem readier to accept jobs rejected by members of the majority ancestry, rather than remain unemployed.'

(Dr Vaughan's research found that migrants who take this option tend to become 'locked in' to such lower-status jobs, whatever their levels of education and experience.)

The study found that the factors tending to channel immigrant workers into specialised niches, or 'ethnic enclaves' within the economy produced some interesting effects.

In such enclaves, where differences in formal schooling are less important in finding work than help from neighbours and compatriots, those with low levels of schooling tend to be protected at the expense of those with better school education.

SPECIAL OFFER: Order this publication plus Dr G. Vaughan's two monographs for a total price of \$50.

This effect was noted particularly in the workforce status of Italian and Chinese migrants of both sexes. It tended to disappear among those with post-school qualifications, where migrants from all four groups fared roughly equally in the Australian labour market.

'It seems fair to conclude that processes of status attainment among men and women, and among these different ancestry groups, are notable more for their similarities than for their differences,' the report says.

For further information, order the publication *Sex and Ethnicity in the Australian Labour Market: The Immigrant Experience* (6252.0), or contact Suzanne Droop on (06) 252 6295.

More Australians on medications as skin treatment, pain killers rise

About 70 per cent of the Australian population used at least one type of medication in the two weeks prior to interview and nearly 30 per cent consulted a health professional, according to results of the 1989-90 National Health Survey.

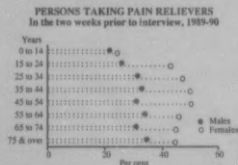
The proportion of people using medications has increased from 67 per cent since 1983, with most of this increase being accounted for by more people using skin ointments.

The most commonly used medications in the latest survey were pain relievers (35% of the population), vitamin and mineral supplements (23%) and skin ointments (18%).

Overall, more females than males (76% and 64% respectively) took some kind of medication. Over 90 per cent of persons who experienced illness or injury in the two weeks prior to interview used medication during that period.

More females than males reported taking pain relievers (42% and 29% respectively) and this pattern was recorded across all age groups. Among males, the highest proportion using pain relievers was recorded for the age groups 75 years and over (35%); for females, the highest proportion using pain relievers was in the age groups 45 to 54 years (50%) and 35 to 44 years (50%). Overall, the proportion of the population using pain killers rose slightly on the 1983 figure.

People most commonly consulted a doctor (20% of the population), with: over nine per cent consulting other health professionals (OHP) (excluding dentists). Only five per cent consulted dentists, and in fact more than a third of the population had not seen a dentist in the two years prior to interview.



Overall, females were more likely than males to consult a health professional (34% and 26% respectively). Doctor consultations were more likely among older age groups and consultations with OHPs more likely among the very young and very old. The OHPs most commonly consulted were chemists, followed by opticians and optometrists.

Over 60 per cent of adults who believed their health status to be poor consulted a health professional in the two weeks prior to interview.

PERSONS WHO CONSULTED SELECTED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, 1989-90
Per cent

Type consulted	Age group (years)					Total
	Under 5	5 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 and over	
Doctor	23.8	15.4	17.3	22.5	34.0	20.0
OHP (excludes dentist)	15.2	7.1	9.4	9.7	11.8	9.4
Total persons who consulted	34.5	25.8	27.1	31.9	42.2	29.9

For further information, order the publications *Use of Medications, Australia* (4377.0) and *Consultations with Health Professionals, Australia* (4376.0), or contact Brian Richings on (06) 252 5786.

Cancer screening measured

In the 1989-90 National Health Survey, some 91 per cent of women aged 18 to 64 years reported having had some type of breast examination to screen for breast cancer.

More women have had their breasts examined by a doctor or medical assistant (71%) than examined their own breasts (63%) or had a mammogram (18%).

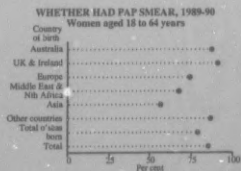
TYPE OF BREAST CANCER SCREENING, 1989-90
Per cent

	Age					Total
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	
Regularly examine own breasts	48.8	61.7	68.7	68.4	67.0	62.8
Has had breasts examined	47.1	73.4	78.9	78.4	74.1	70.9
Has had a mammogram	3.3	9.4	21.8	32.9	28.1	17.8

As to screening for cervical cancer, some 86 per cent of women aged 18 to 64 years reported having had a pap smear. Half of these women (50%) had the test in the twelve months prior to interview. Of the women who had never had a pap smear, 30 per cent reported that they had never heard of the test.

A larger proportion of Australian born women and women born in predominantly English speaking countries reported having a pap smear than women from other birthplaces.

For further information, order the publication *Screening for Breast and Cervical Cancer, Australia* (4378.0), or contact Brian Richings on (06) 252 5786.



In brief ...

Foreign trade

Merchandise exports for August 1992 were \$4,707 million, a decrease of \$151 million (3%) compared with July 1992 and up \$70 million (2%) on August of the previous year.

The main contributors to the decrease in exports recorded for August 1992, compared with one month earlier, were petroleum, petroleum products and related materials, down \$66 million (25%) to \$200 million; transport equipment (excluding road vehicles), down \$62 million (45%) to \$75 million; and textile fibres and their wastes, down \$58 million (17%) to \$290 million. The largest increase was recorded in non-monetary gold, up \$121 million (42%) to \$407 million.

Australia's major exports for August 1992 and their principal markets were:

- coal (\$593 million): Japan (51%), the Republic of Korea (10%) and India (7%);
- non-monetary gold (\$407 million): Singapore (44%), Hong Kong (16%) and Japan (13%);
- meat of bovine animals (\$228 million): Japan (41%), United States of America (29%) and the Republic of Korea (9%); and
- iron ore concentrates and agglomerates (\$227 million): Japan (44%), the Republic of Korea (18%) and China (14%).

Source: Foreign Trade, Australia: Merchandise Exports, August 1992 (5432.0).

Personal finance

Personal finance commitments for August 1992 totalled \$1,667.9 million, a decrease of \$453.9 million (21.4%) over July 1992 but a small increase of \$25.8 million (1.6%) over August 1991. All States recorded decreases with the largest being in New South Wales, down \$265.7 million (32.4%). It should be noted, however, that August 1992 was a four week reporting period for some banks while July 1992 was a five week reporting period.

By type of lender, the major decrease in August 1992 compared with July 1992 was in lending by banks, down \$497.9 million (33.5%). Finance companies were the only lending category to record an increase, up \$82.2 million (24.3%).

Both components of personal finance recorded decreases in August 1992, with fixed loans down \$386.7 million (27.4%) and new and increased revolving credit commitments down \$67.2 million (9.4%).

At the end of August 1992, total credit limits under revolving credit facilities were \$32,529.5 million of which 43.0 per cent was used.

Source: Personal Finance, Australia, August 1992 (5642.0).

Assets of superannuation funds

At the end of June 1992 assets of superannuation funds and approved deposit funds (ADFs) totalled \$153,696 million, an increase of \$7,531 million (5.2%) on the revised March 1992 figure and up \$19,053 million (14.2%) on the revised June quarter 1992 figure.

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order
(including subscription)
- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

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WA (09) 323 5140
SA (08) 237 7100
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NT (089) 432 111

Most types of assets of superannuation funds and ADFs increased in the twelve months to June 1992, the major increase being in shares, up 30.4 per cent. Overseas assets increased by 15.2 per cent. The only decreases were in bills of exchange and bank certificates of deposits, down 4.0 per cent and non-financial assets, down 12.2 per cent.

Overseas assets accounted for 12.4 per cent of total assets.

Source: *Assets of Superannuation Funds and Approved Deposit Funds, June Quarter 1992* (5656.0).

☐ Wine and brandy sales

In seasonally adjusted terms, total wine sales in August were 24.4 million litres, a decrease of 6.3 per cent on July 1992.

Using unadjusted data, total wine sales were 24.5 million litres in August. This is a decrease of 19.4 per cent over July 1992, and a decrease of 8.4 per cent over August 1991.

Australia imported 0.6 million litres of wine in July, an increase of 59.3 per cent over June.

Wine exports for July were 7.5 million litres (valued at \$23.6 million), down by 26.5 per cent from the record June level. The United Kingdom and Sweden continue to receive the bulk of Australia's exports (53.5% of the volume of July 1992 exports).

Source: *Sales of Australian Wine and Brandy by Winemakers, August 1992* (8504.0).

All the week's releases: 21 to 27 October

General

Publications Advice, 23 October 1992 (1105.0; free over the counter)
Publications Advice, 27 October 1992 (1105.0; free over the counter)
Statistics Weekly, 22 October 1992 (1318.0; \$4.20)
Tasmanian Pocket Yearbook, 1992 (1302.6; \$8.50)
Tasmanian Statistical Indicators, October 1992 (1305.6; \$9.50)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Foreign Trade, Australia: Merchandise Exports, August 1992 (5432.0; \$9.50)
Cash Management Trusts, Australia, September 1992 (5635.0; \$6.00)
Personal Finance, Australia, August 1992 (5642.0; \$6.00)

Labour statistics and prices

Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, August 1992 (6411.0; \$10.50)
Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, August 1992 (6412.0; \$10.50)
Import Price Index, Australia, August 1992 (6414.0; \$8.00)
The Labour Force, Vic., August 1992 (6202.2; \$16.00)
Labour Force, SA, August 1992 (6201.4; \$16.00)

Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, Service Industries, Building and Construction

Manufacturing Production, Australia, September 1992, Preliminary (8301.0; \$10.50)
Manufacturing Production, Australia: Building Materials and Fittings, August 1992 (8361.0; \$8.00)

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Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

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(06) 252 6104

Manufacturing Production, Australia: Transport Equipment, August 1992 (8363.0; \$6.00)

Manufacturing Production, Australia: Metal Products, August 1992 (8367.0; \$6.00)

Manufacturing Production, Australia: Wood and Wood Products, August 1992 (8369.0; \$6.00)

Sales of Australian Wine and Brandy by Winemakers, August 1992 (8504.0; \$10.50)

Transport

Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, September 1992, Preliminary (9301.0; \$10.50)

Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 10 November 1992

October

28 Consumer Price Index, September Quarter 1992 (6401.0; \$11.50)

30 Balance of Payments, Australia, September 1992 (5301.0; \$16.00)

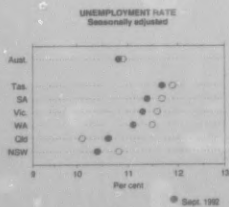
November

2 Building Approvals, Australia, September 1992 (8731.0; \$13.00)

9 Retail Trade, Australia, September 1992 (8501.0; \$10.50)

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to
27 October 1992



Statistics Weekly
29 October 1992

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Mar. qtr 92) [†]	-33.1	-21.8	-18.4	-24.7	-1.5	5.7	n.a.	n.a.	-22.8
Retail turnover (Aug. 92) (trend estimate)	3.6	2.9	6.9	-3.6	6.5	6.0	n.a.	4.5	3.9
New motor vehicle registrations (Sept. 92) [†]	2.6	7.7	22.6	8.5	26.4	12.9	42.3	-14.9	9.8
Number of dwelling unit approvals (Aug. 92) [†]	2.0	22.8	22.6	-2.2	21.5	-6.4	11.9	47.4	18.0
Value of total building work done (June qtr 92)	-18.2	-7.1	6.2	-12.9	-5.8	19.5	-10.3	3.9	-8.8
Employed persons (Sept. 92) [†]	-0.3	-1.8	2.7	0.5	0.9	-2.9	-2.1	1.3	-0.1
Capital city consumer price index (June qtr 92)	1.0	1.3	1.2	2.0	0.5	1.1	1.7	2.2	1.2
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (May 92)	7.5	3.3	1.6	6.0	3.7	4.3	6.3	6.3	4.7
Population (June 91)	1.3	1.1	2.2	1.2	2.0	0.9	1.0	2.9	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc. (June qtr 92)	6.9	4.8	6.4	2.9	3.1	0.7	3.8	21.2	5.9

[†] Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. [‡] Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.

Key national indicators – consolidated to 27 October 1992

		Period	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
National production						
Gross domestic product (A) — 1984-85 prices	\$m	June qtr 92	n.a.	65,000	0.6	1.6
Industrial activity						
New capital expenditure — current prices	\$m	June qtr 92	5,749	5,511	0.7	-15.4
— 1984-85 prices	"	"	4,604	4,407	2.0	-12.0
Expected new capital expenditure	"	Six months to Dec. 92	12,157	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Retail turnover — current prices	"	July 92	7,861	7,973	0.6	4.0
— 1984-85 prices	"	June qtr 92	15,253	15,785	1.6	4.9
New motor vehicle registrations	no.	Sept. 92	47,651	43,651	-3.8	9.8
Dwelling unit approvals	"	Aug. 92	13,528	13,374	-3.4	14.1
Value of all building approvals	\$m	"	1,762	1,782	-4.1	2.6
Value of total building work done — current prices	"	June qtr 92	5,778.2	5,795.0	-0.4	-8.8
— 1984-85 prices	"	"	3,754.4	3,765.4	-0.3	-6.8
Manufacturers' sales — current prices	"	June qtr 92	35,443	35,599	1.1	3.8
— 1984-85 prices	"	"	24,478	24,601	1.2	3.1
Expected manufacturers' sales	"	Six months to Dec. 92	73,674	n.a.	n.a.	2.3
Labour						
Employed persons	'000	Sept. 92	7,759.9	7,687.7	-0.6	-0.1
Unemployment rate †	%	"	10.7	10.8	-0.1	0.6
Participation rate †	"	"	63.2	62.7	-0.5	-0.6
Job vacancies	'000	Aug. 92	28.0	27.5	10.9	9.6
Average weekly overtime per employee	hours	"	1.07	1.11	0.9	0.0
Prices, profits and wages						
Consumer price index (e)	1989-90 = 100.0	June qtr 92	107.3	n.a.	-0.3	1.2
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984-85 = 100.0	Aug. 92	127.1	n.a.	0.7	6.0
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1988-89 = 100.0	Aug. 92	113.6	n.a.	0.4	2.2
Company profits before income tax	\$m	June qtr 92	3,133	3,426	-2.6	45.0
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults, ordinary time)	\$	May 92	587.30	n.a.	-0.3	4.7
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)						
90-day bank bills †	% per annum	July 92	5.55	n.a.	-0.85	-4.55
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"	8.30	n.a.	-0.60	-2.70
Balance of payments						
Exports of merchandise	\$m	Aug. 92	4,679	4,706	-2.2	1.6
Imports of merchandise	"	"	-4,525	-4,368	-11.1	15.9
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"	"	-154	338	n.a.	-60.9
Balance of goods and services (c)	"	"	-125	110	n.a.	-84.4
Balance on current account (c)	"	"	-1,104	-903	-38.8	-61.8
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0	June qtr 92	n.a.	99.0	-1.2	-1.0
Foreign investment						
Net foreign debt	\$m	31 Mar. 92	148,124	n.a.	2.4	7.6
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	199,312	n.a.	3.4	10.9
Exchange rates (monthly average)						
US\$	per \$A	Aug. 92	0.7258	n.a.	-2.6	-7.2
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0	"	53.1	n.a.	-2.9	-12.1
Other indicators						
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million	Mar. 92	17.5	n.a.	0.4	1.4
Overseas visitor arrivals	'000	July 92	219	223	3.0	6.0

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a π/μ sign indicates an increase in the deficit, no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures expected to be released Wednesday, 28 October 1992.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 10).

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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